

42012-50

## TOWN OF PACE

Post office Box 216  
Pace, Mississippi 38764  
662-723-6292 - Fax: 662-723-6198

Robert LeFlore, Sr., Mayor  
Aelicia Thomas, Attorney  
Curtissia W. Allen, Town Clerk  
Leguster Watkins, Police Chief  
William Evans, Maintenance Superintendent

RECEIVED  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
Toshisunda K. Brown  
2011 NOV 3 11:49  
Linda Hall  
Benny Hamilton  
Beverly Shelly  
Harry D. Walker, Vice Mayor  
POSTAL REGULATORY  
COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

October 25, 2001

Postal Regulatory Commission  
Attention: Ann Fisher  
Director of Government Relations  
901 New York Avenue, NW  
Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Received

OCT 31 2011

Office of PAGR

RE: Appeal the Closing of Pace, MS :Post Office

Dear Ms. Fisher:

I am appealing the Postal Service's decision to close the Pace Post Office.

Closing the Pace Post Office will definitely have a negative effect on Pace's economy as well as costing it's citizens many times over the \$52,479.00 annual savings quoted by the Postal Service in it's letter of Final Determination to Close the Pace Post Office.

The injustice here is that the Post Office, a critically needed service in the community, is being taken from the poorest and neediest citizens in the Mississippi Delta, the poorest region in the nation. Pace is comprised largely of elderly citizens, transfer payment recipients, low-income residents, many of which do not own automobiles. These individuals will spend a substantial amount of their disposable income on gasoline going to the Post Office out of town in Cleveland, paying utilities and making other payments by purchasing money orders from the postal service, simply because they don't know how to otherwise, this is the way they have always done business. Most of these people do not have access to computers, nor would they use them if they did because they just don't trust them. Computers is a new technology that none of the elderly will ever use. These people are set in their ways and not likely to change.

The Post Office is an institution in Pace. It is the only establishment where race relations are practice somewhat successfully. The races meet and greet each other at the post office several times a week, pick up their mail, carry on conversations about the community, pay bills etc. The Post Office is the binding agent that keeps the community

Small Town with a Big Future

together. Closing it is a nail in the town's coffin, and it is only a matter of time before the town fades into extinction.

The Pace Post Office serves the Town of Pace, the Symonds community of approximately 200 residents about 3 miles north west of Pace and the surrounding rural area with another 40 to 50 residents. Pace has a total of 308 post office boxes plus it services a number of general delivery customers. The Postal Services states that closing the Pace Post Office is a \$52,479.00 annual savings to the postal services. Nothing is mentioned about what it will cost the citizens of Pace and surrounding area should the Post Office Close. Nor is it mentioned what it will cost to hire an extra mail carrier or at least extend the hours of a mail carrier now serving in the vicinity. The \$52,479.00 just does not justify closing the Post Office and taking away the town's postal autonomy.

Of the 500 plus customers from the Pace and surrounding area at least a 100 will go into Cleveland at least once per week for mail purposes. The Cleveland Post Office is 20 to 25 miles round trip from Pace. 25 miles times 100 people equals 2,500 miles per week times 52 weeks per year equals 130,000 miles @ about 20 miles per gallon of gasoline equals 6,500 gallons of gasoline per year times \$3.50 per gallon equals about \$22,750.00. Add this to the wear and tear to the automobiles plus the lost time going to the Cleveland Post Office couples with the increased danger of having to drive to Cleveland one can clearly see that closing the Pace Post Office is a disadvantage and a hardship both economically and physically. Going to Beulah is out of the question, they don't have any business establishments. The \$22,750.00 additional cost for gasoline to Pace residents, lost time plus the rural mail carrier's added salary/wages to serve Pace plus additional operating cost, gasoline, oil, customer mail boxes, etc. one can conclude it is more economical to keep the Pace Post Office open. One can also speculate that the cost savings quoted by the Postal Service of \$52,479.00, which have just been disproved, is more likely less than 1/1000<sup>th</sup> of the Postal Service's total annual budget.

In conclusion, on behalf of all of the citizens of Pace and surrounding services area I respectfully request that the Postal Regulatory Commission keep the Pace Post Office open for the posterity of Pace.

Sincerely,

THE TOWN OF PACE



Robert LeFlore, Sr.

Mayor

cc: Congressman Benny Thompson